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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO.100

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Photo: Thirty-eight District Social Workers (DSWs) participated in a five-day Induction Training conducted jointly by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and SIKA-East in Kabul.

November 25, 2013

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Highlights of the Week:

- The District Project Portfolios (DPPs) for Jalrez District of Maydan Wardak Province and Ahmad Abad District of Paktya Province were submitted to and approved by USAID in the reporting period. This enables SIKA-East to launch its grants program and further capacity building activities in these districts.
- Together with its governmental counterparts, SIKA-East will facilitate several major events in the coming week: the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the second Service Providers Fair (SPF) in Logar, and a District Development Assembly (DDA) conference in Maydan Wardak Province.



Photo: District Social Workers take part in a workgroup session during their Induction Training, facilitated by MRRD and SIKA-East.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Capacity Building:**
 - 19 training activities conducted in 11 districts across the SIKA-East provinces during the week attended by 436 men and 313 women
 - Since the beginning of the program, 15,161 individuals, of which 11,240 men and 3,921 women, have attended 420 training sessions in total
- **Grants:**
 - Two new grants awarded in Baraki Barak District, Logar Province
 - 84 grants in value of \$4 million awarded in Andar, Dih Yak, Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, Saydabad and Zurmat districts
 - Fifteen grants, in value of \$486,654, completed in Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Nirkh and Saydabad districts
 - Six new engineering designs completed this week, bringing the total number of designs to 142, worth approximately \$7 million

District Social Workers (DSW) Induction Training Takes Place in Kabul

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) / Community Led Development Department (CLDD) and SIKA-East organized and conducted a five-day DSW Induction Training from November 17 to 22 in Kabul.

The curriculum was developed jointly by both partners and the training was delivered by facilitators from MRRD/CLDD and SIKA-East.

Thirty-eight DSWs from Logar, Khost, Maydan Wardak, Ghazni and Paktya provinces attended the training. Thirteen of these were newly hired DSWs under the SIKA-East program, while the remaining are MRRD employees.

The curriculum included briefings on MRRD, the National Solidarity Program (NSP), Community Development Councils (CDCs), District Development Assemblies (DDAs), SIKA-East and its activities, community mobilization, and Monitoring & Evaluation.

In addition, challenges facing DSWs in the provinces were discussed, as well as suggested solutions to them.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization

- The Jalrez and Ahmad Abad DPPs were submitted to and approved by USAID in the past week. The approval of the DPPs enables SIKA-East to launch the grants program and further capacity building activities in the aforementioned districts. SIKA-East is working on the remaining three DPPs, to be submitted to USAID by the end of the month.
- The Loya Jirga and the subsequent security measures in and around Kabul brought a slowdown of activities in the national capital, while work in the provinces continued as normal. Due to the closure of banks, grant milestone payments had to be postponed for the next reporting period.

Capacity Building

- The nineteen training activities conducted across the SIKA-East provinces during the week were attended by 436 men and 313 women. The training topics included: Unity Building, Fundraising, Lobbying, Grant Process and Application Development, Communication Plan implementation, Grant Management and Negotiation Strategy. Trainings took place in the districts of Gurbuz, Tani, Jaji Maydan, Mando Zayi, Baraki Barak, Saydabad, Jalrez, Andar and Jaghatu.
- Eighteen DDA+ communication committee meetings for men and women took place in Mohammad Agha, Khoshi, Nirkh, Jalrez, Jaghatu, Qarabagh, Laja Ahmad Khail, Ahmad Abad and Zadran District.
- Since the beginning of the program, 11,240 men and 3,921 women have attended 420 SIKA-East capacity building sessions. An additional number of communication committee meetings and sub-coordination meetings have been held across the provinces.

Infrastructure Grants

- During the week two new grants were awarded in Baraki Barak District, Logar Province, with cumulative value of approximately \$67,000.
- Six new engineering designs valued at \$378,000 were completed in the reporting period. These designs refer to canals and flood protection walls in the districts of Khwaja Umari, Tani, Jaji Maydan and Zurmat.
- Milestone payments, postponed in the reporting period due to the closure of bank offices in Kabul, will resume early next week.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

SIKA-East has been working on preparations to mark events for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25, as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence - an international campaign that starts every year on this date. In all five provinces, SIKA-East has joined with DDAs+, Provincial and District Governors Offices, Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) departments, Departments of Women's Affairs (DoWA), and tribal and religious leaders to call attention to this day and to longer-term efforts to address issues affecting women and girls in their communities.

During the next reporting period, approximately 1,100 participants will be invited to join in panel discussions and other forums in the provinces to create and raise awareness about gender issues and promote collective activism to tackle these effectively. These events will help to sensitive leaders about violence against women, discrimination in the family and society, to expand leadership consensus on changing harmful traditional ideas and practices, and to enable leaders to develop and advocate for positive alternatives.

SIKA-East is supporting event planning, outreach, and implementation in each of the five provinces. In addition, in accordance with district stability planning project priorities, SIKA-East is working with local leaders and government authorities to launch a portfolio of initiatives that will improve education and healthcare services for females and broaden access to livelihood and employment opportunities.

- Of the total 84 awarded grant projects to date, 14 have been completed and 69 are currently being implemented in eight districts of eastern Afghanistan.
- In total, 142 grant applications in value of \$7 million have been received and 112 applications worth \$5.5 million have thus far received USAID approval.

Capacity Building Grants

- Two Requests for Proposals (RFP) were issued for the Nirkh District of Wardak Province for training in embroidery and tailoring. An additional two RFPs for the same training are being developed for Dih Yak District of Ghazni Province.
- Nine capacity building grant packages have been submitted to USAID for vetting, for the provinces of Logar, Paktya, Khost and Ghazni.
- Fourteen bid results are in various stages of evaluation before they are submitted to USAID for their vetting and approval. These include radio broadcasting, tailoring, public water well boring, vegetable and fruit processing, and poultry trainings.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- SIKA-East continues with focus group surveys in the remaining 12 districts where the program operates. During the week, 28 focus groups were conducted, bringing the total to 120 focus groups sessions conducted under this survey. Ninety-five surveys thus far have been transcribed and 61 translated into English before further processing.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- Three training sessions were conducted in Ghazni Province: a joint Communication Plan Implementation training for 12 men and 13 women from Khwaja Umari District, Negotiation Strategy for 29 women from Andar, and Fundraising for 49 men from Jaghatu District.

KHOST

- Ten training sessions were conducted in Khost Province for 482 participants: Negotiation Strategy for 28 men and 60 women from Gurbuz, as well as for 63 men from Tani and 55 from Jaji Maidan; Fundraising training was completed for 41 women from Tani and 45 women from Jaji Maydan. Lobbying training was conducted for

Provincial Activities



Under the clear blue skies of mountainous Laja Mangal District in Paktya Province, CDC and DDA members listen attentively to the SIKA-East facilitator elaborating on various fundraising skills.



Forty CDC members from Laja Mangal District discuss practical exercises given under the SIKA-East Unity Building training.



The District Governor of Andar District, Ghazni Province, visited the Mash school boundary wall construction site – a project initiated by the local CDC and funded under a SIKA-East grant.

40 women from Tani and 45 women from Jaji Maydan. Fifty-two men from Jaji Maidan completed Unity Building, while 53 men from Mando Zayi attended the Grant Process and Application Development training.

LOGAR

- Due to the successful intervention of the District Governor of Mohammad Agha District, the Nazeer Qala CDC grant project restarted in the reporting period. This project was previously placed on hold due to a clash between two competing CDCs.
- Thirty-two infrastructure grant projects, worth \$1.5 million in total, are currently being implemented in Mohammad Agha and Baraki Barak districts of Logar Province.
- Grant Management training session was conducted for 32 men from Baraki Barak District.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- SIKA-East is working on preparations for the provincial DDA conference due to take place in the next reporting period, in cooperation with governmental counterparts.
- Two separate Negotiation Strategy training sessions were conducted for 18 women and 18 men from Saydabad District. Communication Plan Implementation training for 22 women and 21 men from Nirkh District was completed as well. Additionally, Lobbying training was conducted for 53 men from Jalrez District.
- Currently, 26 infrastructure grants are being implemented in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh and Saydabad districts. These have cumulative value of \$1.3 million. Eleven grant projects have been thus far completed in Nirkh and Saydabad districts.

PAKTYA

- Together with its governmental counterparts, SIKA-East is working on the preparations for the second SPF in the province.
- The first two grants are being implemented in Zurmat District, with cumulative value of approximately \$140,000.
- The joint SIKA-East and PRRD Grant Review Committees (GRCs) reviewed and approved eight new grant applications for Zurmat, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal and Zadran Districts. These have cumulative value of \$451,435.

CHALLENGES

- Several grant projects in Maydan Wardak Province have been placed on hold by the applicants due to repeated Taliban threats. After two months of unsuccessful negotiations with insurgents and attempts to resolve the problem, also involving the PRRD as well as the local community, the Khako Kheil CDC decided to cancel their project. Three more grant recipients continue to seek ways to implement SIKA-East grants despite insurgents' threats: the Salil Khail PMC, the Khatotee CDC, and the Zinkhan Kheil CDC. The latter is hoping that with the coming of the winter, the Taliban would withdraw from their area and they would be able to bring machinery to the village to implement the project.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in all five provinces;
- Organize the second Service Provider Fair (SPF) in Paktya Province on December 3 and 4;
- Conduct the DDA conference in Maydan Wardak Province; and,
- Disburse milestone payments in value of \$577,553 to 46 grant recipients.

SIKA-East Grants Pipeline

(Please note that the US dollar value of the grants may fluctuate in accordance with the fluctuating conversion rates between the US dollar and the Afghan national currency)

PROVINCE	District	Under Development	Applications Received		Vetting Pending with USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	GRC Approved	USAID Approval Requested	USAID Approval Received		Grants Awarded/ Cumulative		Grants Completed	
		No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Ghazni	Andar	6	6	\$373,321	0	6	6	4	4	\$297,977	4	\$297,977	0	0
	Dih Yak	2	14	\$555,688	0	8	14	11	10	\$419,669	9	\$360,269	1	\$19,087
Khost	Tani	2	2	\$139,204	0	0	1	1	1	\$42,824	0	0	0	0
Logar	Baraki Barak	9	22	\$1,139,224	1	15	20	18	18	\$889,296	13	\$652,589	0	0
	Khoshi	7	1	\$42,824	1	0	1	1	1	\$42,824	0	0	0	0
	Moh. Agha	1	26	\$1,327,105	0	25	26	22	22	\$1,025,875	22	\$1,025,875	3	\$103,672
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	3	15	\$727,569	3	10	15	14	13	\$608,632	9	\$402,205	0	0
	Nirakh	3	20	\$1,088,731	0	17	18	18	18	\$987,227	15	\$839,837	3	\$178,035
	Saydabad	3	28	\$990,919	4	11	27	27	26	\$948,095	13	\$432,698	8	\$185,860
Paktya	Zurmat	5	6	\$455,695	4	2	5	3	2	\$229,437	2	\$132,559	0	0
	Zadran	0	2	\$139,695	0	2	2	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0
Total		41	142	\$6,979,975	13	96	135	119	115	\$5,491,8560	84	\$4,033,451	15	\$486,654